

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector consisting essentially of an open reading frame operably linked to one or more regulatory elements, wherein the open reading frame encodes a polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.

2. (Previously Presented) The recombinant expression vector of Claim 1, wherein said open reading frame has the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. (Currently Amended) The recombinant expression vector of Claim 1, wherein said vector is a replication-defective virus.

4. (Original) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of Claim 1, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of prokaryotic host cells and eukaryotic host cells.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a nucleic acid encoding a Rig protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing:
  - i) a sample comprising a nucleic acid encoding Rig,
  - ii) a nucleic acid probe having complementarity to at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4,
- b) combining said sample and said probe under conditions wherein a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said nucleic acid in said sample, and
- c) detecting said hybridization complex,

whereupon the detection of the hybridization complex indicates the presence of a nucleic acid encoding a Rig protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sample.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of total cellular RNA, polyA RNA and genomic DNA.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein said sample is from tumor tissue.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said sample is from a human subject.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein said hybridization complex in step c) is detected using a Northern blotting protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for amplifying a nucleic acid encoding a Rig protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 in a sample, comprising:

- a) providing:
    - i) a sample comprising a nucleic acid encoding Rig,
    - ii) a DNA polymerase;
    - iii) two oligonucleotides, one of which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and one of which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence that is complementary to SEQ ID NO: 4; and
    - iv) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification reagents;
  - b) combining said sample, said DNA polymerase, said oligonucleotides, and said PCR amplification reagents;
  - c) annealing said oligonucleotides to said nucleic acid in said sample; and
- extending said oligonucleotides with reiterated DNA synthesis under conditions such that said nucleic acid is amplified, whereupon a nucleic acid encoding a Rig protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 is amplified.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said DNA polymerase has both DNA-dependent DNA polymerase activity and reverse transcriptase RNA-dependent DNA polymerase activity.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said sample is from a human subject.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein said sample is from tumor tissue.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said nucleic acid is selected from DNA and RNA.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein one of said two oligonucleotides consists of SEQ ID NO:2 and the other of said two oligonucleotides consists of SEQ ID NO:3.

17-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises step e) detecting said amplified product.

30. (Not Entered) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule consisting of an open reading frame, wherein the open reading frame encodes a polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.

31. (Not Entered) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 30, wherein the open reading frame consists of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

32. (Not Entered) A composition comprising the isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 30.

33. (Not Entered) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule that is complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 30.

34. (Not Entered) A composition comprising the isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 33.

35. (Not Entered) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule that is substantially homologous to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a Rtg protein (SEQ ID NO: 5), wherein the derivative comprises an amino acid substitution in SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein that possesses tumor growth inhibiting activity, focus formation inhibiting activity, and an ability to bind to Raf-1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule optionally is in the form of a recombinant expression vector.

36. (Not Entered) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 35.

37. (Not Entered) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 35.

38. (Not Entered) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule that is complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 35.

39. (Not Entered) A composition comprising the isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 38.